

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00669 000005Z

73/44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 ST-01 SY-05 OPR-02

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R 311305Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4107

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO CSAF WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

COMNAVSUPSYSCOM WASHDC

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

NAVMIO NORVA

CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA ETH

USDAO ADDIS ABABA ETH

COMIDEASTFOR

HQ MAC SCOTT AFB

CHNAVPER WASHDC

S E C R E T ASMARA 0669

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-W O R D C H A N G E - L A S T W O R D P A R A 2 S U B P A R A B
L I N E 15-EAF VICE EAL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ET

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT OF CARGO TO/FROM ASMARA

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AUGUST 31 CALL ON CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
COL. FIKRU TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF OUR REQUEST TO THE EPMG
FOR PERMISSION TO LAND A C-141 SUPPLY MISSION IN ASMARA. I BELIEVE
MY BRIEFING WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF THIS PROPOSAL. (SLOW-
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00669 000005Z

NESS IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM AUTHORITIES IN ADDIS MAY BE DUE

IN PART TO THEIR FAILURE AS YET TO INFORM FIKRU.) FIKRU DID HOWEVER, DESIGNATE COL. TEFEREDEGN, CHIEF OF SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION IN ASMARA, AS OUR POINT OF CONTACT FOR FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS. OIC NAVCOMMUNIT WAS PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION WITH FIKRU.

2. IN ORDER THAT FORWARD PLANNING CAN PROCEED, FOLLOWING ARE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. TIMING: C-141 SUPPORT FLIGHT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7 OR ALTERNATIVELY, IF EPMG CLEARANCE TOO LONG DELAYED, ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21. (TIME PERIOD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 7 AND 21 BRACKETS EPMG REVOLUTION DAY CEREMONIES TOO CLOSELY.) WE ARE ESTIMATING APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS ON THE GROUND IN ASMARA OFF-LOADING AND UNLOADING. (AIRCREW WILL BE EXPECTED REMAIN WITH AIRCRAFT FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE DEPARTURE.) AIRCRAFT SHOULD PLAN TO LAND AT 1000 HOURS. WITH RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE LAST WEEK, ASMARA AIRPORT HAS AGAIN BECOME A BUSY TERMINAL. ASSUMING EAL FLIGHTS ARE REASONABLY ON SCHEDULE, HOWEVER, WE FIND A TWO-HOUR POCKET BETWEEN 1000 AND 1200 HOURS WHEN ONLY THE C-141 WOULD BE ON THE APRON. C-141 ARRIVAL TIME OF 1000 HOURS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE KAGNEW PERSONNEL THE TIME NEEDED TO LOAD BULKY CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT ON TRUCKS IN EARLY MORNING (AFTER CURFEW LIFTED) AND FORM UP CONVOY TO PROCEED BY ROAD APPROX. 6-7 MILES TO AIRPORT, ABOUT A 15-20 MONUTE CONVOY RUN. ANY EARLIER ARRIVAL TIME WOULD COMPRESS TRUCKLOADING TIME TOO TIGHTLY BETWEEN CURFEW AND ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT. UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL WILL BE TRUCKLOADED NIGHT BEFORE, BUT CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM SECURE WAREHOUSING AND LOADED ON HI-BOYS UNTIL MORNING OF DAY AIRCRAFT ARRIVES.

B. SECURITY: ASMARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT--JOHANNES IV-- HAS BEEN UNDER EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SINCE LATE JUNE 1976. ENTIRE AIRPORT COMPLEX, INCLUDING RUNWAYS, APRONS AND CIVIL AND MILITARY TERMINALS, IS UNDER UNITARY SECURITY ARRANGEMENT. ALL VEHICLES ARE SEARCHED AT A CHECKPOINT ON THE ROAD JUST OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT. ARMED GUARDS WITH RIFLES AND SUBMACHINE-GUNS ARE ON THE AIRPORT PERIMETER AND ARE IN EVIDENCE IN ALL PARTS OF THE TERMINAL AND ON THE APRON. NON-PASSENGERS MAY NOT ENTER. TRAVELERS ENCOUNTER SEVERAL SUCCESSIVE SECURITY CHECKPOINTS FROM TERMINAL ENTRANCE TO THE FOOT OF THE BOARDING RAMP WHERE LAST BODY SEARCH IS MADE. THE TRUCK CONVOY HAULING

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PAGE 03 ASMARA 00669 000005Z

OUTGOING EQUIPMENT FROM KAGNEW WILL HAVE SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION FROM KAGNEW STATION TO THE AIRPORT AND SECURITY GUARDS WILL BE STATIONED ON THE PARKING RAMP. THE C-141 WILL OFFLOAD AND ONLOAD NEAR THE MAIN TERMINAL. COL. FIKRU HAS RULED OUT USE OF THE EAF APRON BECAUSE OF CONGESTION FROM HIS OWN AIRCRAFT THERE. I ALSO SEE COSMETIC ADVANTAGE TO THIS ARRANGEMENT IN FURTHER DIVORCING OUR OPERATION FROM APPEARANCE OF OFFLOADING MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR EPMG FORCES. I AM CONFIDENT ALL NECESSARY SECURITY WILL BE PROVIDED

AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL, AND EQUIPMENT.

3. OIC NAVCOMMUNIT HAS SEEN THIS MESSAGE AND CONCURS.
SLUTZ

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NNN

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